



## Klamath Network Featured Creature

### July 2006

### Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*)

#### FIELD NOTES:

#### General Description:

The Oregon Spotted Frog is a medium sized (~2-4 inches) frog whose color can be reddish-brown, tan, or olive green, with irregular-shaped black spots on its back, sides and legs, usually with distinct edges and light centers. Underneath, the frog tends to be reddish in color with a white or grayish groin that can be used to distinguish them from the Cascades frog. Tadpoles are brown, with a light belly and grow to 1 ¾ inches.

#### Behavior:

Breeding occurs from February to April and is generally associated with the ice melt on lakes, ponds and marshes. Eggs are deposited in the shallows of a permanent water source as free floating clusters that can contain up to 1,300 eggs.

#### Feeding:

Similar to most aquatic frogs, the Oregon Spotted Frog's diet consist of insects, mollusks, crustaceans and arachnids. They are a "sit and wait" predator, remaining motionless on shore or in the water until something comes by that looks filling. They then use a sticky tongue to capture their prey. During the larval stage they act as grazers eating algae and organic debris.

#### Habitat:

The Oregon Spotted Frog is highly aquatic and can be found in or near permanent bodies of water including lakes, ponds, slow moving streams and marshes. They tend to select areas with thick cover of algae, sedges, rushes and grasses with little shade and woody debris.

#### Where to see it in the Klamath Parks:

Historically, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Oregon Caves National Monument and Crater Lake National Park have had documented cases of the Oregon Spotted Frog. However, no recent records have been found for this species within any park in the Klamath Network. Populations are known to exist in Deschutes, Jackson, Klamath, Lane and Wasco counties of Oregon.



#### Distribution:

Historically the Oregon Spotted Frog could be found throughout northern California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Currently, this species is thought to be extirpated from California. Oregon, Washington and British Columbia populations have become isolated with an estimated loss of 70-90% of their historic distribution.

#### Threats:

The bullfrog is one of the major threats to the Oregon Spotted Frog. Other predators include river otter, raccoons, herons and snakes. In addition, larvae are susceptible to dragonflies, predacious diving beetles, and fish.

#### Status:

The Oregon Spotted Frog is a Federal Candidate species in the United States and an Endangered species in Canada. The species is listed as State Endangered in Washington and is considered a Sensitive Species in Oregon,

#### Additional Information:

For more information on *Rana pretiosa*, visit the following web addresses:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/status/spotfrog/sfrgxsum.htm>

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frogwatch/whoswho/factshts/orspot.htm>

[http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/candforms\\_pdf/r1/D02A\\_V01.pdf](http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/candforms_pdf/r1/D02A_V01.pdf)